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Message Text

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51
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 EB-11 AID-20 A-01 SY-10 OPR-02 DRC-01

USIE-00 /188 W
---------- 012918
O P 171452Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0169
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
USINT CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIOLRTY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8307

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. BECAUSE OF LOCAL HOLIDAY (SIMHAT
TORA), STORES AND SHOPS
ARE CLOSED AND ROAD TRAFFIC IS DOWN. ISRAELI PRESS DID NOT
APPEAR TODAY.

2. CIVILIAN ECONOMY GOING ALONG AT PACE OF PAST WEEK. THERE
WAS BUSY SHOPPING YESTERDAY IN PREPARATION FOR HOLIDAY AND
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SUPPLIES WERE NORMAL, ALTHOUGH SOME ISRAELIS HAVE SAID THAT
SUGAR IS BECOMING JNCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. WHATEVER

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SHORTAGES IN CONSUMER ITEMS HAVE APPEARED (AND THERE SEEM TO BE FEW) ARE PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOARDING AND PROBLEM IN DISTRIBUTION. YESTERDAY, STORES WERE CLOSED BY 2:00 PM WHICH IS NORMAL PRACTICE ON EVE OF A HOLIDAY. BECAUSE OF CONTINING BLACKOUT, HOWEVER, STORES HAVE ADJUSTED THEIR SCHEDULES BY REMAINING OPEN AYL AFTERNOON AND CLOSING AT 4:00 PM INSTEAD OF NORMAL 7:00 PM CLOSING TIME. WE HAVE HEARD SOME REPORTS THAT KEY FACTORY WORKERS MAY BE RELEASED FROM MILITARY DUTY TO ASSURE CONTINUED OPERATION OF ESSENTIAL PRODUCTION.

3. SOLDIERS ARE CONTINUING TO BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME FOR SHORT VISITS TO THEIR FAMILIES. TROOPS IN LARGE NUMBERS HITCH-HIKING RIDES WERE NOTICABLE ON INTER-URBAN HIGHWAYS YESTERDAY. WE ASSUME THAT THEY WERE GIVEN DAY
OFF FOR SIMHAT TORA AND
WILL REJOIN THEIR UNITS TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING.

4. AMERICAN PRESS, BESIEGED WITH HOME OFFICE REQUESTS FOR COLOR AND DETAILS OF U.S. RESUPPLY, ARE BECOMING RESTLESS AND FRUSTRATED. TV TYPES ARE MAKING ELOQUENT PLEAS TO EMBASSY FOR FILMING OF WHAT THEY SEE AS SHARPLY STEPPED-UP U.S. ROLE. THEY ARE ALMOST READY TO SETTLE FOR SHOTS OF THE FLAG FLAPPING FROM THE CHANCERY. WITH SINAI OPENED TODAY TO NEWSMEN AFTER TWO-DAY HIATUS, MOST OF CORPS DONNED THEIR COMBAT FINERY AND RACED FOR DESERT IN BUSES AND CARS. WAR CONTINUES TO TAKE ITS TOLL OF NEWSMEN: A BRITISH CORRESPONDENT SITTING IN A CAR WHILE HIS THREE NON-AMERICAN COLLEAGUES WERE "WANDERING" NEARBY THE GOLAN ROADSIDE TOOK A DIRECT HIT FROM A SYRIAN ROCKET. HE IS THE SECOND TO DIE.

5. ISRAELI SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMED US THAT SIATUATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REMAINS QUIET. FEW ARAB WORKERS FROM

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE SHOWING UP AT THEIR JOBS.

6. THERE WAS NO FOREIGN AIR CARRIER ACTIVITY INTO LOD YESTERDAY AND NONE IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. ON OCT 17 LOD HANDLED SEVEN EL AL INCOMING FLIGHTS AND EIGHT OUTGOING. ONLY OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY WAS ONE PHOENIX (CHARTER) TURNAROUND. ONLY
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ACTIVITY PLANNED FOR OCT 18 IS FIVE EL AL INCOMING AND FOUR OUTGOING FLIGHT.
KEATING

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NNN

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